

**ORIGINAL**

*A/ "Porno"*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

By

C. EVERETT KOOP, M.D.

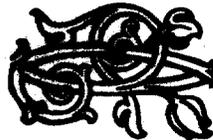
SURGEON GENERAL

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

AND

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



PRESENTED TO THE DENVER NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PORNOGRAPHY

DENVER, COLORADO

MAY 31, 1985

(GREETINGS TO HOSTS, GUESTS, FRIENDS, ETC.)

I WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS CONFERENCE, "MORALITY IN MEDIA" OF COLORADO, FOR TAKING THE INITIATIVE AND HOLDING UP TO THE BRIGHT DAYLIGHT THE DISTURBING FACTS ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY IN AMERICAN LIFE.

MY SPECIAL THANKS GO TO FATHER MORTON HILL, WHOSE INVITATION I WAS PLEASED TO ACCEPT, AND TO DEWITTE GORDON, RAYMOND KIMBALL, AND REVEREND EARL ROBERTSON, THE CO-CHAIRMEN FOR COLORADO, A STATE WITH A WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION FOR GENEROSITY AND HOSPITALITY.

THE EFFORTS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR STAFFS HAVE PROVIDED YOU WITH A PACKED AGENDA FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW. BUT THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS A VERY DISTRESSING PIECE OF INFORMATION. IN AN IDEAL WORLD, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE THAT MUCH TO SAY ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY. THERE OUGHT NOT TO BE ENOUGH GOING ON IN THIS SUBJECT TO FILL THE AGENDA OF EVEN ONE DAY, LET ALONE TWO.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE. AND EACH ONE OF US -- EACH DAY -- IS FACED WITH TROUBLING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF PORNOGRAPHY IN OUR COMMUNAL LIFE...IN THE MEDIA...AND IN THE FLOW OF DAILY COMMERCE:

WHY DOES IT PERSIST?

TO WHOM DOES IT REALLY APPEAL?

WHAT ARE ITS TRUE AFFECTS?

AND IS IT A SYMPTOM...OR IS IT A CAUSE?

THESE AND MANY OTHER QUESTIONS WILL BE COMING UP AT THIS CONFERENCE AND YOUR MANY EXCELLENT SPEAKERS WILL WRESTLE WITH THE ANSWERS. I URGE EACH ONE OF YOU TO GIVE ALL THE SPEAKERS YOUR VERY BEST ATTENTION BECAUSE THEY ARE WORKING IN A COMPLEX AREA IN WHICH LAW AND EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND CIVIL ORDER ARE ALL DELICATELY INTER-TWINED.

AS A RESULT, THE SOCIAL SCIENTIST OR THE ATTORNEY WORKING IN THE AREA OF PORNOGRAPHY CAN BECOME VERY DISCOURAGED. IT IS NOT ONLY COMPLICATED BUT SOMETIMES THANKLESS WORK. NEVERTHELESS, WE KNOW IT'S WORK THAT HAS TO BE DONE, BECAUSE -- WHETHER BY INTUITION OR BY THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD -- WE PERCEIVE THAT PORNOGRAPHY IS A DESTRUCTIVE PHENOMENON. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING TO SOCIETY BUT, RATHER, TAKES AWAY FROM AND DIMINISHES WHAT WE REGARD AS SOCIALLY GOOD.

CERTAINLY ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT ASPECTS OF OUR CONCERN WITH PORNOGRAPHY WAS EXPRESSED EARLIER THIS MONTH BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. EDWIN MEESE. THE OCCASION, OF COURSE, WAS HIS APPOINTMENT OF 11 CITIZENS TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMISSION ON PORNOGRAPHY. AT THAT TIME, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID...

"IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT WITH PORNOGRAPHY WE ARE NOT DEALING WITH ONE PASSING INCIDENT -- ONE MAGAZINE, ONE PLAY, OR ONE FILM. WE ARE DEALING WITH A GENERAL TENDENCY THAT IS PERVADING OUR ENTIRE CULTURE -- INCLUDING THE CULTURE KNOWN TO VERY YOUNG CHILDREN."

THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT OBSERVATION. IN THE PAST, WE'VE BEEN CONCERNED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE BOOK STORES AND THE MOVIE THEATERS THAT HAVE SPECIALIZED IN PORNOGRAPHY. BUT IT'S NO LONGER QUITE THAT SIMPLE.

THE HUCKSTERS OF PORNOGRAPHY HAVE INVADED CABLE TELEVISION, THE POPULAR MUSIC WORLD, AND THE WHOLE NEW FIELD OF HOME VIDEO RECORDERS. TO THEM THEY ARE NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND THEIR MARKETS OF SLEAZE AND TRASH. BUT TO US THEY ARE NEW AND COMPLEX CHALLENGES IN THE PUBLIC'S BATTLE AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY.

IN THE COURSE OF THIS MEETING YOU WILL BE LISTENING TO MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE MUCH BETTER INFORMED ABOUT MOST OF THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS THAN I AM. THEY WILL ALSO DEAL WITH A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT MATTERS OF LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY. THOSE ARE ALSO NOT MY PARTICULAR AREAS OF EXPERTISE.

NO, THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT HERE TODAY IS TO SHARE WITH YOU MY ANXIETIES ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY UPON AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH.

I SAY THAT, HOWEVER, WITH A KEEN SENSE OF CAUTION AND CIRCUMSPECTION FOR A COUPLE OF REASONS:

FIRST, AS WE ALL KNOW, THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH HAS HAD LITTLE EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH PORNOGRAPHY. IT IS A FIELD THAT IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN THE SCIENCES. BUT THUS FAR THE LITERATURE REGARDING PORNOGRAPHY IS STILL RELATIVELY -- AND UNDERSTANDABLY -- SLIM, WHICH LEADS US TO TREAD WITH GREAT CARE AND, FOR NOW, MAKE NO PROMISES.

THE SECOND REASON IS RELATED TO THE FIRST. WE AMERICANS ARE VERY QUICK TO "MEDICALIZE" ALL OUR WORST SOCIAL PROBLEMS. AS A RESULT, PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNERS HAVE BEEN HANDED SUCH ISSUES AS DIVORCE, DRUNK DRIVING, AND TEEN-AGE PREGNANCY AND THEY'VE BEEN ASKED TO "DO SOMETHING" ABOUT THEM.

I THINK PUBLIC HEALTH PEOPLE ARE DOING THE BEST THEY CAN, EVEN THOUGH THE PROBLEMS ARE NOT PARTICULARLY -- OR EVEN PECULIARLY -- MEDICAL PROBLEMS.

REAL SOLUTIONS TO THOSE SOCIAL PROBLEMS CAN BE GENERATED ONLY WHEN ALL THE DIFFERENT INTEREST GROUPS OF SOCIETY -- ALONG WITH PUBLIC HEALTH -- SHARE A SENSE OF PROPRIETORSHIP FOR THOSE PROBLEMS. AT THAT TIME SUCH PROBLEMS ARE NO LONGER YOURS OR YOURS OR YOURS...THEY BECOME OURS.

HAVING DELIVERED MYSELF OF THAT CAVEAT, LET ME GO ON TO SAY THAT I BELIEVE WE HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO IMPLICATE PORNOGRAPHY AS A SERIOUS CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO CERTAIN DISORDERS OF HUMAN HEALTH. AND I FEEL STRONGLY THAT PORNOGRAPHY HAS ALSO BEEN CLEARLY IMPLICATED AS A KIND OF "ACCESSORY" TO ANTI-SOCIAL ACTIONS THAT PRODUCE GRAVE AND PROFOUNDLY HARMFUL OUTCOMES.

IN THE PAST IT MAY HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO IGNORE THIS EVIDENCE OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, TO ASSIGN IT A LOW PRIORITY IN THE SCHEME OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS. BUT AT THIS STAGE OF OUR UNDERSTANDING TO IGNORE THE EVIDENCE WOULD BE TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS DECISION NOT TO SEE PORNOGRAPHY AS A CLEAR SYMPTOM OF STRESS AND DISORDER. WE SIMPLY CAN'T DO THAT TODAY.

IN PUBLIC HEALTH TERMS, PORNOGRAPHY HAS BECOME THAT KIND OF SYMPTOM. HENCE, MANY PROFESSIONALS IN PUBLIC HEALTH ARE NOW BEGINNING TO LOOK UPON THIS SYMPTOM WITH THE SAME DEGREE OF SERIOUS STUDY THAT THEY'VE GIVEN EVERY OTHER SYMPTOM OF MAJOR HEALTH STRESS AND DISORDER.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE DID NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE HAVOC CAUSED BY A MYSTERIOUS NEW BACTERIUM CALLED "LEGIONELLA PNEUMOPHILA," OR SIMPLY "LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE."

NOR DID WE AVOID THE CHALLENGE OF "STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS," THE AGENT THAT BRINGS ON "TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME."

AND, OF COURSE, UNDER SURGEON GENERAL LUTHER TERRY AND CONTINUING UNDER EVERY ONE OF HIS SUCCESSORS, WE HAVE AMASSED THE DATA THAT IDENTIFY CIGARETTE SMOKING AS A MAJOR CAUSE OF CANCER, STROKE, AND HEART DISEASE.

THE EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY MAY NOT BE PRECISELY SIMILAR TO THE EFFECTS OF A BACTERIUM OR A VIRUS AND, AS A SPECIFIC CONCEPT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, IT CAN SOMETIMES BE ELUSIVE, PORNOGRAPHY NEVERTHELESS SEEMS TO HAVE WHAT I WOULD CALL A "PERSISTENT PRESENCE" IN THE FOLLOWING FOUR HEALTH AREAS:

\* THERE IS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FIELD OF SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION. PORNOGRAPHY INTERVENES IN NORMAL SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS AND ALTERS THEM IN SOME WAY. IT SEEMS TO PROVOKE A DYSFUNCTIONAL RESPONSE AMONG CERTAIN PEOPLE. I THINK WE NEED TO KNOW HOW PREVALENT THIS IS AND HOW IT WORKS.

\* SECONDLY, ONE OF THE MORE DISTURBING PIECES OF INFORMATION FROM OUR NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS IS THE RISING RATE OF SUICIDE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE. RECENTLY, A NUMBER OF THESE SUICIDES WERE JUDGED TO HAVE BEEN UNINTENTIONAL, THE RESULTS OF CERTAIN AUTOEROTIC BEHAVIORS IN WHICH SOFT-CORE PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS APPARENTLY PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE. THIS BEARS AS MUCH INVESTIGATION, IT SEEMS TO ME, AS WE INVEST IN MANY OTHER TYPES OF INTENTIONAL AND ACCIDENTAL SUICIDE.

\* THIRD, MANY WOMEN ARE JUSTIFIABLY CONCERNED ABOUT SO-CALLED "COPY-CAT" RAPES. THESE ARE RAPES THAT FOLLOW THE PATTERN OR "STORY LINE," IF YOU WILL, OF A RAPE SHOWN IN A PORNOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE OR DRAMATIZED ON VIDEOTAPE. WHILE WE SUSPECT THAT MANY RAPISTS HAVE RELIED ON SUCH DISPLAYS BEFOREHAND, WE DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW PREVALENT THIS IS. WE ALSO DON'T KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT CERTAIN MEN ACTUALLY REQUIRE SUCH INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMIT THIS MOST VICIOUS CRIME OF VIOLENCE.

\* AND FINALLY, WE NEED TO LOOK AT THE PUBLIC HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, WHICH IS BY FAR THE MOST DISTURBING ELEMENT IN THIS FIELD. THE EFFECTS UPON INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN ARE PROFOUNDLY HARMFUL IN PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND EMOTIONAL TERMS. WE SUSPECT THAT THE CHILD WHO SURVIVES BEING USED IN THIS WAY MAY NEVER AGAIN BE ABLE TO FUNCTION IN NORMAL HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. TRAGICALLY, A NUMBER OF CHILDREN DO NOT EVEN SURVIVE.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, ONCE IT IS RELEASED, CAUSES AN ADDITIONAL ROUND OF PROFOUND HARM TO OTHER INNOCENT CHILD VICTIMS, WHO ARE USED BY ADULTS OR OLDER CHILDREN IN WAYS DEPICTED IN THE PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS.

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD ABUSE AND CHILD MOLESTATION AND I FEEL SURE WE CAN MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.

IN AT LEAST THESE FOUR AREAS OF SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION, SUICIDE, RAPE, AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, I BELIEVE THAT THE PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENTIST AND RESEARCHER MAY PLAY A ROLE OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE. MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING JUST WHAT THE SCOPE AND DEPTH OF SUCH A ROLE MIGHT BE. WE'VE FACED A SIMILAR QUESTION MANY TIMES BEFORE AND WE'VE ANSWERED IT TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE PUBLIC. I THINK WE CAN DO THAT AGAIN. ABOVE ALL, I THINK WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO TRY.

TRUE...THIS IS A HIGHLY COMPLEX AREA, AS I NOTED EARLIER. IT IS CROSS-HATCHED WITH SOCIAL THEORY...LEGAL THEORY...AND COMMUNICATIONS THEORY. BUT FREEDOM IS NOT PARALYSIS. SO I BELIEVE WE WOULD BE ACTING IN A MANNER WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH OUR TRADITIONS OF FREEDOM OF INQUIRY, IF WE WERE TO SEARCH OUT THESE AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF PORNOGRAPHY.

IN FACT, THE SCIENTIFIC TRADITION IN OUR SOCIETY HAS BEEN SCRUPULOUS ABOUT PURSUING TRUTH BUT NEVER AT THE EXPENSE OF ANY CITIZEN'S FREEDOM OR WELL-BEING. IT IS IN THE SPIRIT OF THAT TRADITION THAT I AM SPEAKING TO YOU TODAY.

I ALSO HAPPEN TO FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH COMMUNITIES ARE BETTER PREPARED TO CARRY OUT THIS KIND OF INVESTIGATION TODAY, THEN THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN FORMER TIMES. I BELIEVE THEY FEEL MORE "CONNECTED" TO THE DAY-TO-DAY EVENTS OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE AND ARE LESS ADDICTED TO THE ISOLATED LIFE OF THE PROVERBIAL IVORY TOWER.

AND LET ME TELL YOU SPECIFICALLY WHY I FEEL THAT WAY.

THREE YEARS AGO I BEGAN TO VOICE MY CONCERN OVER THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY. I BEGAN SOMEWHAT TENTATIVELY...AS I HAVE TODAY IN THESE REMARKS REGARDING PORNOGRAPHY...BECAUSE OUR PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERIENCE WITH VIOLENCE WAS STILL NEW AND EVOLVING.

NEVERTHELESS, I SAID THEN -- AND I'LL REPEAT IT NOW -- THAT ACTS OF ASSAULT, RAPE, MARITAL RAPE, CHILD ABUSE, CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, AND HOMICIDE ARE OCCURRING IN NUMBERS FAR BEYOND WHAT WE MIGHT EXPECT EVEN IN A BIG COUNTRY LIKE OURS WITH ITS MINORITY OF CLINICALLY DISTURBED MEN AND WOMEN.

OUR HOMICIDE RATE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS HIGHER THAN THE RATE OF ANY OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED NATION IN THE WORLD. FOR EVERY 100,000 OF OUR PEOPLE, 8 ARE VICTIMS OF MURDER. THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE IN A SOCIETY THAT PURPORTS TO BE CIVILIZED.

AND FORCIBLE RAPE IS INCREASING. IT IS NOW OCCURRING AT THE REPORTED RATE OF 165 VICTIMS FOR EVERY 100,000 WOMEN. RAPE, HOWEVER, IS A CRIME THAT IS CONSISTENTLY UNDER-REPORTED. BUT EVEN 165 RAPES PER 100,000 WOMEN MUST BE UNACCEPTABLE IN OUR SOCIETY.

THE OUTCOMES OF VIOLENCE ARE CATASTROPHIC NOT JUST FOR ITS VICTIMS BUT FOR THE COUNTRY AT LARGE. OUR MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES PEOPLE SPEND YEARS IN TIME AND MILLIONS IN DOLLARS TRYING TO PIECE BACK TOGETHER AGAIN THE BODIES AND THE MINDS AND THE LIVES OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE.

AS I SAID, THIS HAS BEEN MY MESSAGE FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS. I'VE DELIVERED IT TO PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS -- PEDIATRICIANS AND FAMILY MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS. AND I'VE DELIVERED IT TO THE MEDIA, IN PARTICULAR THE LEADERSHIP OF THE THREE MAJOR NETWORKS. EACH TIME, THE MESSAGE BECAME CLEARER AND WE BEGAN TO SEE A SHARPER FOCUS AND DIRECTION FOR OUR EFFORTS.

THIS YEAR I DECIDED NOT TO JUST TALK ABOUT THIS PROBLEM BUT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. I DECIDED TO FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL ON THE PROBLEM OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE IN OUR COUNTRY.

I SAID I THOUGHT IT WAS TIME FOR PEOPLE IN MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH TO COME UP WITH WHAT WE CAN DO TO IMPROVE THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF VICTIMS AND ALSO TO PREVENT VIOLENCE FROM HAPPENING IN THE FIRST PLACE. TO FACILITATE THAT, I'VE ISSUED INVITATIONS TO A "SURGEON GENERAL'S WORKSHOP ON VIOLENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH" TO BE HELD THIS OCTOBER.

WE'VE CONTACTED NEARLY 150 LEADING PHYSICIANS, NURSES, PSYCHOLOGISTS, EMERGENCY MEDICINE SPECIALISTS, VICTIMS ADVOCATES, AND MANY OTHERS WHO MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO SUCH A WORKSHOP. AND I'M DELIGHTED TO REPORT THAT THE RESPONSE RATE HAS BEEN BETTER THAN 90 PERCENT.

AND FROM THE LITTLE NOTES THAT MANY HAVE ATTACHED TO THEIR RESPONSE FORMS, IT SEEMS CLEAR ENOUGH THAT THESE COLLEAGUES IN PUBLIC HEALTH SHARE A STRONG DESIRE TO HELP STOP THE VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED THAT IS CORRUPTING OUR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LIFE.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE PROFESSIONALS IN MEDICINE, NURSING, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND SOCIAL SERVICES ARE STRONG AND WILLING ALLIES OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN ITS EFFORT TO TURN BACK THE TIDES OF VIOLENCE.

AND I BELIEVE THAT, AS THE PUBLIC SHARES ITS GROWING UNEASINESS REGARDING PORNOGRAPHY, THOSE SAME GROUPS OF PROFESSIONALS WILL AGAIN STEP FORWARD, READY TO HELP.

AS YOUR SURGEON GENERAL, AND AS ONE WHO SHARES WITH YOU YOUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY ON AMERICAN LIFE, I AM APPROACHING THIS NEW AND COMPLEX ISSUE WITH SEVERAL POINTS UPPERMOST IN MY MIND, AS WELL AS IN MY PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:

-- FIRST, PORNOGRAPHY IS A PROBLEM WITH IMPORTANT RAMIFICATIONS FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH. I BELIEVE WE CAN RECOGNIZE THAT FACT WITHOUT HAVING "MEDICALIZED" AN OTHERWISE NON-MEDICAL SOCIAL ISSUE.

-- SECOND, THERE SEEM TO BE CERTAIN SPECIFIC AREAS OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL DYSFUNCTION TO WHICH PORNOGRAPHY CONTRIBUTES OR, AT THE LEAST, TO WHICH IT SEEMS TO PLAY A STRONG "ACCESSORY" ROLE. THESE COULD BE LEGITIMATE AREAS FOR FURTHER PUBLIC HEALTH INVESTIGATION AND EXPLORATION.

-- THIRD, NEW MEDIA AND NEW METHODS OF DISTRIBUTION HAVE PROVIDED PORNOGRAPHERS WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SPREAD THEIR LOATHESOME MESSAGE TO AN AUDIENCE COMPRISING A WIDER RANGE OF AGE, EXPERIENCE, AND SENSIBILITY. THIS, IN EFFECT, INTENSIFIES THE DANGER TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF SUCH VULNERABLE GROUPS AS CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN.

-- AND FINALLY, I BELIEVE THAT HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TODAY ARE DEMONSTRATING NOT ONLY A GREATER INTEREST IN THIS KIND OF ISSUE BUT ALSO A GREATER WILLINGNESS TO BECOME INVOLVED, WITHOUT THE FEAR OF COMPROMISING THE CANONS OF FREE INQUIRY. I REALIZE THAT THIS IS STILL A HYPOTHESIS, BUT I BELIEVE IT WILL STAND A PUBLIC TEST.

TODAY AND TOMORROW YOU WILL BE GAINING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND INSIGHT ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY -- WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT DOES, AND WHAT WE MUST DO TO FIGHT IT. IT IS A LONG AND RICH AGENDA, BUT I'M AFRAID IT MAY BE A LITTLE SHORT ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE HEALTH SECTOR.

FOR THIS YEAR, THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE. HOWEVER STRONGLY WE MAY PERSONALLY FEEL ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT, AS PROFESSIONALS, WE APPROACH IT WITH ALL THE NECESSARY SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE SO THAT WE MAY LAY A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE STUDY AND ACTION.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT AT A MEETING SUCH AS THIS, HELD A YEAR FROM NOW, THERE MIGHT BE SEVERAL PRESENTATIONS INDICATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PORNOGRAPHY AND THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

I BELIEVE THERE IS SUCH A CONNECTION AND I BELIEVE IT WILL BE MORE WIDELY UNDERSTOOD IN THE YEARS AHEAD BY THE VERY PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE GREATEST NEED TO KNOW: THE MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN OF AMERICA.

THANK YOU.

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